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1. **Summary of Argument**

Unexpired leases and executory contracts are deemed rejected in a Chapter 7 case if not assumed or rejected by the deadline, which is currently set by order of the Court to be on November 12, 2021. Debtor's primary assets and its pre-petition business included the maintenance of vineyards and production of wine on over 470 acres of property in Paso Robles, California. Due to the nature of the Debtor's assets, there are some pre-petition executory contracts (such as, crucially, insurance contracts) which remain and have not been assumed, rejected, or deemed rejected.

Trustee has negotiated and previously presented a purchase and sale agreement ("PSA") between himself and Riboli Paso Robles, LLC ("Buyer") to sell the Estate's interest in real property commonly known as 2380 Live Oak Road, Paso Robles, CA ("Live Oak Property"). The Trustee has obtained an order from the Court approving overbid procedures in connection with the Live Oak Property, and has scheduled a hearing for the sale of the Live Oak Property for December 13, 2021. Additionally, negotiations remain ongoing regarding the other properties referred to as the San Marcos Property and Texas Road Property. Because all of these real properties appear to be overencumbered by the lien in favor of Farm Credit West, FCLA ("FCW"), negotiations remain 16 ongoing regarding whether these properties will be liquidated by the Trustee or abandoned to FCW. To ensure that the value of all of the properties is maintained and preserved, the Trustee requests a further extension of the deadline to assume or reject executory contracts so that any contracts which a future buyer considers valuable may be assumed and assigned, and any other valueless contracts may be at a later date rejected.

2. **Procedural Background**

On October 28, 2020, Debtor filed a voluntary petition for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code, initiating the instant bankruptcy case.

FCW was the principal creditor of the Debtor and held a duly perfected blanket lien over all personal and real property assets of Debtor.

Debtor's principal assets consisted of real properties which are logically grouped as follows: (1) the Live Oak Property which consists of a 7,500 square-foot luxury residence and a 160-acre vineyard property; and (2) the San Marcos and the Texas Road Properties that consist of

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approximately 360 acres of vineyard land, with the San Marcos Property also including an architecturally distinctive, medium-size wine processing facility.

On November 6, 2020, as Dk. No. 11, FCW filed a motion for relief from the automatic stay regarding the real properties. In short, FCW has a blanket lien in the approximate amount of \$19-20 million over all assets of Debtor including the Live Oak Property, while the estimated value of the Debtor's assets is well short of that amount. As such, FCW is likely an undersecured creditor.

On November 10, 2020, as Dk. No. 17, Debtor filed its schedules and statement of financial affairs ("Schedules").

On February 16, 2021, as Dk. No. 60, the Office of the United States Trustee ("OUST") filed 10 a motion to dismiss or convert the case for cause pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b).

On June 15, 2021, as Dk. No. 116, the Court entered an order converting the case to Chapter 7. Richard A. Marshack (previously defined as "Trustee") was appointed as Chapter 7 trustee.

On July 16, 2021, as Dk. No. 138, Trustee filed his first motion to extend the statutory deadline to assume certain unexpired leases and executory contracts ("First Extension Motion").

On August 9, 2021, as Dk. No. 187, the Trustee filed a motion to approve farm operator 16 agreement and for authorization to operate Debtor's business for the limited purpose of completing 17 the Fall 2021 harvest of current crop of fruit ("Operate Motion"). On September 7, 2021, as Dk. No. 18 211, the Court entered an order granting the Operate Motion.

On August 10, 2021, as Dk. No. 188, the Court entered an order granting the First Extension Motion and extending the deadline to November 12, 2021 ("First Extension Order"). A true and correct copy of the First Extension Order is attached to the Declaration of Richard A. Marshack as Exhibit "1."

On August 31, 2021, as Dk. No. 207, the Trustee entered into a stipulation for turnover of the Live Oak Property with Erich and Joanne Russell ("Russell Stipulation"). Through the Russell Stipulation, the parties agreed that among other things, the leases including the Live Oak Lease and Garrett Lease would be voluntarily and mutually terminated. As of November 10, 2021, all parties have vacated the Live Oak Property and the Trustee is taking steps to secure and re-key the Live Oak Property.

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On September 7, 2021, as Dk. No. 210, the Court entered an order granting relief from stay to FCW pursuant to the stipulated terms agreed to by Trustee and FCW. Importantly, the stipulated terms provided that no enforcement action would be taken against the Live Oak Property before December 1, 2021 ("Enforcement Deadline").

On September 28, 2021, Trustee and Riboli Paso Robles, LLC (previously defined as "Buyer") executed the PSA for the sale of those specified assets listed and described in Article I of the PSA (which includes, essentially, the Live Oak Property).

On October 4, 2021, as Dk. No. 227, the Trustee filed a motion to authorize exploratory water well drilling by the Buyer in the course of its due diligence. The permits for well drilling were submitted to the County of Paso Robles and were issued on or around October 18, 2021.

On October 5, 2021, as Dk. No. 232, the Trustee filed a motion for order approving overbid procedures for the sale of the Live Oak Property ("Bid Motion").

On October 20, 2021 as Dk. No. 238, the Court entered an order approving the Bid Motion and set a scheduling order for the filing and hearing of a sale motion. A hearing on the future sale motion was scheduled for December 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

On November 1, 2021, as Dk. No. 242, the Court entered an order authorizing the Buyer to proceed with water well drilling. Trustee and Buyer were subsequently informed that the drilling company was extremely busy and was unable to immediately begin the well drilling project, which would take approximately two weeks after breaking ground. The estimated time for beginning the project is in mid-December to mid-January of next year.

Because of the unanticipated delay in commencing well drilling which is not attributable to either Trustee or Buyer, the parties anticipate seeking permission from the Court to set a later sale date than originally requested. As a result, all appurtenant deadlines may also have to be continued to permit the well drilling and due diligence to be completed to Buyer's satisfaction.

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3. **Legal Argument**

The deadline to assume or reject executory contracts may be extended for cause.

In a Chapter 7 case, "if the trustee does not assume or reject an executory contract or unexpired lease of residential real property or of personal property of the debtor within 60 days after the order for relief..." then "such contract or lease is deemed rejected." 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(1); see Pinnacle Restaurant at Big Sky, LLC v. CH SP Acquisitions (In re Spanish Peaks Holdings II, LLC), 862 F.3d 1148, 1156 (9th Cir. 2017). The court may allow the trustee "additional time" to assume or reject an executory contract "for cause." 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(1). A number of important factors are 10 involved when the court makes a determination of whether there is cause to allow additional time to assume or reject an executory contract. *In re Victoria Station*, 88 B.R. 231, 236 n.7 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1988) (citing *In re Wedtech Corp.*, 72 B.R. 464, 471-73 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1987)). While this is not a Chapter 11 case, the term "for cause" is not defined for the purposes of Section 365(d)(1). See Hickman v. Hana (In re Hickman), 384 B.R. 832, 840 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2008) ("The term 'for cause' is defined in the Bankruptcy Code only by way of a list of three examples – unreasonable delay prejudicial to creditors, nonpayment of filing fees, and not filing schedules – that is plainly incomplete").

When the First Extension Motion was filed by the Trustee, the timing and anticipated schedule for closing a sale of the Debtor's properties was unknown. The Trustee determined, however, that it was appropriate to maintain the status quo and retain the option to either assume or reject the Debtor's various executory contracts and unexpired leases in the event that any buyer for any or all of the properties was interested in taking an assumption of the leases or contracts. Because there is now a framework for a sale of the properties, and a tentative schedule, the Trustee must continue to preserve the status quo and keep the option of assumption or rejection of any valuable/valueless contract available for Buyer and any interested overbidder(s). There is good cause to enter a second order to further extend the deadline to assume or reject executory contracts. In preliminary discussions with FCW, the Trustee is informed that FCW may be willing (although no such agreement has been confirmed) to extend the Enforcement Deadline from December 1, 2021 to

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Declaration of Richard A. Marshack

2 I, RICHARD A. MARSHACK, declare and state as follows:

- 1. I am the Chapter 7 trustee ("Trustee") for the bankruptcy estate ("Estate") of Northern Holding, LLC ("Debtor").
- 2. I am an individual over 18 years of age and competent to make this declaration. Except as set forth as matters of judicial notice, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this Declaration, and if called upon to do so I could and would competently testify to these facts.
- 3. I make this declaration in support of my motion for an order further extending the deadline to assume certain unexpired leases and executory contracts together with any and all related agreements ("Motion").
- 4. Capitalized terms not defined in this declaration shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Motion.
- 5. A true and correct copy of the Court's order extending the deadline for me to assume or reject executory contracts and unexpired leases is attached as Exhibit "1."
- 6. Although I originally requested and expected that I would be able to conduct a sale 16 hearing for the Live Oak Property on December 13, 2021, I was advised that due to the current volume of work for Miller Drilling Company, they would be unable to immediately begin to drill for water as required by the Buyer. Because the drilling has been delayed, the sale process will similarly be delayed because the Buyer is unwilling to waive the water contingencies until the full due diligence has been performed.
 - 7. I am also informed that Farm Credit West may be willing to extend the December 1, 2021 deadline to allow the sale of the properties to close no later than March 2022. I believe it is in the best interest of the Estate to keep the option open for the Estate to assume and assign executory contracts to any future buyer, and on that basis there is good cause for an extension to March 2022.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on November 11, 2021.

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1 D. EDWARD HAYS, #162507 ehays@marshackhays.com 2 DAVID A. WOOD, #272406 **FILED & ENTERED** dwood@marshackhays.com 3 TINHO MANG, #322146 tmang@marshackhays.com AUG 10 2021 4 MARSHACK HAYS LLP 870 Roosevelt Avenue 5 Irvine, CA 92620 **CLERK U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT** Telephone: (949) 333-7777 Central District of California
BY ile DEPUTY CLERK 6 Facsimile: (949) 333-7778 Attorneys for Chapter 7 Trustee, RICHARD A. MÁRSHACK 8 9 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 10 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - SANTA ANA DIVISION 11 12 In re Case No. 8:20-bk-13014-MW NORTHERN HOLDING, LLC, Chapter 7 14 Debtor. ORDER GRANTING CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO EXTEND 15 TIME TO ASSUME OR REJECT EXECUTORY CONTRACTS 16 PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 365 17 [Relates to Docket No. 138] 18 Hearing: Date: August 9, 2021 19 Time: 2:00 p.m. Ctrm: 6C 20 411 W. Fourth Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 21 On August 9, 2021, the Court held a hearing on the motion filed by the Chapter 7 trustee 22 Richard A. Marshack ("Trustee") entitled Chapter 7 Trustee's Motion for Order Further 23 Extending Time to Assume Or Reject Executory Contracts Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 365(a); 24 Memorandum of Points of Authorities; Declaration of Richard A. Marshack In Support, which 25 was filed on July 16, 2021 as Docket No. 138 ("Motion"). Prior to the hearing, no opposition or ²⁶ response was filed by any party. At the hearing, Tinho Mang of Marshack Hays LLP appeared 27 on behalf of the Trustee and Sloan Youkstetter appeared on behalf of the Debtor, Northern 28 Holding, LLC. 1 4816-7517-2594v.1-1015.146

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1	Based on the statements of counsel at the hearing and noting the lack of opposition to the					
2	Motion, the Court has found good cause to grant the Motion in its entirety.					
3	IT IS ORDERED THAT:					
4	1. The Motion is granted in its entirety;					
5	2. The Trustee's deadline pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 365 to assume or reject any					
6	executory contracts and unexpired leases is extended from August 13, 2021, through and					
7	including November 12, 2021 ("Extended Deadline"); and					
8	3. No unexpired leases or executory contracts have been deemed rejected as of the					
9	entry of this order.					
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23	Date: August 10, 2021 Mark S. Wallace					
24	United States Bankruptcy Judge					
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	4816-7517-2594v.1-1015.146					

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is: 870 Roosevelt, Irvine, CA 92620

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled: CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE'S SECOND MOTION FOR ORDER FURTHER EXTENDING TIME TO ASSUME OR REJECT EXECUTORY CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 365(A); MEMORANDUM OF POINTS OF AUTHORITIES; DECLARATION OF RICHARD A. MARSHACK IN SUPPORT will be served or was served (a) on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in the manner stated below:

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRON	IC FIL	.ING (NEF) : Pursuant to controlling General				
Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the cour	t via N	EF and hyperlink to the document. On				
November 10, 2021, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankrup	tcy ca	se or adversary proceeding and determined that				
he following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated pelow:						
	\boxtimes	Service information continued on attached page				

2. <u>SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL</u>: On <u>November 11, 2021</u>, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge <u>will be completed</u> no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

DEBTOR

NORTHERN HOLDING, LLC ATTN: OFFICER, A MANAGING OR GENERAL AGENT, OR TO ANY OTHER AGENT AUTHORIZED BY APPOINTMENT OR LAW TO RECEIVE SERVICE 13217 JAMBOREE RD #429 TUSTIN, CA 92782

Service information continued on attached page

3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL: Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on **November 11, 2021**, I served the following persons and/or entities by personal delivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on, or overnight mail to, the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY
PRESIDING JUDGE'S COPY
HONORABLE MARK S. WALLACE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL BUILDING AND COURTHOUSE
411 WEST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 6135 / COURTROOM 6C

	T, SUITE 6135 / COURTROOM 6	 -	
*		 Service information continued on at 	tached page
I declare under penalty of per	jury under the laws of the United	States that the foregoing is true and correct.	
November 11, 2021	Layla Buchanan	/s/ Layla Buchanan	
Date	Printed Name	Signature	

This form is mandatory. It has been approved for use by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF): CONTINUED:

- INTERESTED PARTY COURTESY NEF: William H Brownstein Brownsteinlaw.bill@gmail.com
- INTERESTED PARTY COURTESY NEF: Steve Burnell sburnell@sulmeyerlaw.com, msilva@tomcaseylaw.com
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- ATTORNEY FOR TRUSTEE RICHARD A MARSHACK (TR): D Edward Hays ehays@marshackhays.com, ehays@ecf.courtdrive.com; kfrederick@ecf.courtdrive.com; cmendoza@marshackhays.com; cmendoza@ecf.courtdrive.com
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- ATTORNEY FOR TRUSTEE RICHARD A MARSHACK (TR): Kristine A Thagard kthagard@marshackhays.com, kthagard@ecf.courtdrive.com; kfrederick@ecf.courtdrive.com
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- ATTORNEY FOR CREDITOR FARM CREDIT WEST, FLCA: Gerrick Warrington gwarrington@frandzel.com, sking@frandzel.com
- **INTERESTED PARTY COURTESY NEF:** David Wood dwood@marshackhays.com, dwood@ecf.courtdrive.com; lbuchananmh@ecf.courtdrive.com; kfrederick@ecf.courtdrive.com

2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL: CONTINUED:

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C/O KARI L. LEY, ATTORNEY AT LAW 264 CLOVIS AVENUE, SUITE 208 CLOVIS, CA 93612

SECURED CREDITOR / POC ADDRESS ERICH RUSSELL & JOANNE RUSSELL 2380 LIVE OAK ROAD

PASO ROBLES, CA 93446-9693

SECURED CREDITOR FARM CREDIT WEST

ATTN: OFFICER, A MANAGING OR GENERAL AGENT, OR TO ANY OTHER AGENT AUTHORIZED BY APPOINTMENT OR LAW TO RECEIVE SERVICE 3755 ATHERTON RD 11707 FAIR OAKS BLVD ROCKLIN, CA 95765

SECURED CREDITOR / POC ADDRESS

FARM CREDIT WEST, FLCA C/O MICHAEL J. GOMEZ FRANDZEL ROBINS BLOOM & CSATO, L.C. 1000 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, 19TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90017-2457

SECURED CREDITOR

MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES
AS AGENT
FARM CREDIT WEST, FLCA, AS
TRUSTEE
ATTN: OFFICER, A MANAGING OR
GENERAL AGENT, OR TO ANY
OTHER AGENT AUTHORIZED BY
APPOINTMENT OR LAW TO
RECEIVE SERVICE
11707 FAIR OAKS BLVD
FAIR OAKS, CA 95628-2816

SECURED CREDITOR / POC ADDRESS

FARM CREDIT WEST, FLCA ATTN: KEVIN E. RALPH 3755 ATHERTON DRIVE ROCKLIN CA 95765-3701

SECURED CREDITOR / POC ADDRESS

JAMES W. HAMILTON ACTTC SAN LUIS OBISPO TAX COLLECTOR 1055 MONTEREY STREET SUITE D-290 SAN LUIS OBISPO CA 93408-1003